



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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Sixth Sunday of Easter, 9-10 May, 2026

Pope Leo and his first year of Papacy

*(extracted from CathNews— written by
Courtney Mares, OSV News)*

*A year ago, Robert Prevost stepped
onto the loggia of St Peter's Basilica as
Pope Leo XIV and uttered words that
became a preview of the first year of
his pontificate: "Peace be with you."*

Peace would perhaps become the most
visible theme of his first year, as war
flared in the Middle East and Pope Leo
became a persistent, sometimes lone
voice of moral authority for restraint
and dialogue.

But the eight-minute speech that followed also
contained many of the other major themes of
his early pontificate: a vision of "a united
Church," theological rootness in St Augustine,
the Pope's missionary heart and a prioritisation
of God above all else.

One year on, the first words with which Pope
Leo chose to introduce himself to the world
merit a close reading.

Not only was "peace" the very first word of
Pope Leo's pontificate, it was one of the most
used words in his first speech. He highlighted
"the peace of the Risen Christ" that "comes
from God, God who loves us all unconditional-
ly".

"Peace," however, was not Pope Leo's most
frequently used key word that day. That distinc-
tion belonged to "God" and other references to
the Trinity. "The world needs his light," he said
of Jesus.

Pointing the world to God is a priority that Pope
Leo has since felt compelled to clarify to jour-
nalists who sought to frame his papacy in politi-
cal terms. His primary focus, he said, is not pol-
itics, but God, the source of peace.



From the loggia on May 8, 2025, he told the
crowd gathered in St Peter's Square that "God
loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not
prevail."

Over the year that followed, Pope Leo put sig-
nificant effort into elevating the signs of faith –
he offered more than 65 public Masses, carried
the Eucharist in procession through the streets
of Rome on the feast of Corpus Christi, and
then carried the cross for two key events: first
through a crowd of 1 million young people dur-
ing the Jubilee of Hope, and then through the
darkness of night for all 14 Stations of the
Cross on Good Friday in the Colosseum.

From the loggia, Pope Leo outlined his vision
for the Church in a cascade of descriptive
phrases: "a missionary Church," "a Church that
builds bridges," "a synodal Church," "a Church
that always seeks peace," "a faithful Church of
Jesus Christ."

But the very first descriptor he used to articu-
late his vision for the Church was "a united
Church."

Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

**Reconciliation
Saturdays**
10am—10.30am

Parish Priest:
Fr Brendan Connell CP

Assistant Parish Priest
Fr. Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)
Valerie Ferreira
(Safeguarding & Visitation)

**St Paul Apostle North
Primary School**
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Cathy Mason

**St Paul Apostle South
Primary School**
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

**St John's
Regional College**
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for NEXT WEEK
The Ascension of the Lord Sunday, 2026

First Reader: Acts 1: 1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.

"This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

This is the Word of God

Second Reader: Ephesians 1: 17-23

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Brothers and sisters:

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all

This is the Word of God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go make disciples of nations;

I am with you always, to the end of the age

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Psalm

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.
God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne

Gospel: Matthew 28: 16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age

The Good news of the Lord

Reflection

"The Ascension is about a new presence, not an absence—how can I recognize Jesus with me today?"

"Jesus has gone to prepare a place for me; do I live with the hope of heaven, or am I too rooted in earthly worries?"

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

St Paul Apostle safeguarding policies can be found on our website at

<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills> or in hardcopy in the Sacristy



SACRAMENT PROGRAM—FIRST COMMUNION

Thank you to all families who have attended the Family Night of this program. In the next few coming weeks your children will attend classes either at the parish schools during school hours (for those attending St Paul Apostle South or North school) or at After School Religious Education (ASRE) for those who attend NON parish schools. ASRE class runs on TUESDAYS from 4pm to 5pm in the parish office. Dates for ASRE are: 12 May, 19 May, 26 May and 9 June (no ASRE class on 2 June)

CHILDRENS LITURGY

As we are all aware, the running of the parish relies heavily on the generosity of parishioners who volunteer their time to run many of our Church activities and programs. One such program, our Children's Liturgy group is growing in attendance and is in great need of additional leaders. Children's Liturgy is held on Sunday 11am Mass, during the school term. It commences at the beginning of the Mass and ends at offering time (during the second collection). Each time, there must be at least 2 volunteers to run it, under the safeguarding policy. If you have time and are willing to assist this group, please contact the Parish Office and we will give you more information. Please consider to help this group.

PROJECT COMPASSION!!

If you have Project Compassion box/es at home, it is now the time to bring them back to the Church so that we can bank in the money to the Caritas.

BINGO

Our next parish Bingo will be on **FRIDAY, 15 May, 2026** at 7.30pm in the Annexe. You can come on your own or as a group. For more information please contact Vianney 0438 700 675 or Joe 0419 385 441. Please note that this activity is strictly adults only (18 years or over). Unfortunately, there is a strict policy which states that anyone under this age is not permitted inside the hall during Bingo

BREAD RUN

Bread Run is one of Vinnies (St Vincent de Paul's) programs. The bread comes from a local bakery and is distributed to those who are in need. At this stage, the group needs some extra hands to help them with distributing the bread. They run on Thursday at 7pm from the room under the Church building.

If you think you can help this group, please contact Vianney on 0438 700 675 she will provide you with additional information



CATHOLIC CARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL

Thank you to all who have contributed to this special appeal. We will transfer your generous contribution directly to CatholicCare for their work which is empowering communities and building strength and resilience, to enable everyone to reach their full potential and live life to the full.

Your kindness and generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for struggling individuals and families in our community.

If you missed this appeal, you can donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9967 2515.

COME AWAY

Come Away Retreats are conducted at the Holy Cross Centre on a monthly basis. A time for both sharing and quiet time in the beautiful garden setting of Holy Cross; guided meditation, silence, Mass and Anointing, opportunity for individual guidance. Session times: 9.30am. (start with a cuppa) to 3.00pm. (BYO lunch)

Our next session is **Wednesday, June 24th, 2026**

This long-standing Passionist Ministry at Holy Cross is valued by many. We invite you to support it financially according to your means. Suggested Donation \$20 – \$25

Readings:

Sixth Sunday of Easter Yr A

Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

1 Peter 3:15-18

John 14:15-21

www.universalis.com

The Ascension of the Lord Sunday Yr A

Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 1:17-23

Matthew 28:16-20

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Pandry Jackson, Irma Dias, Eduardo Dias, Fr Chris Mithen CP, Kerryn Carney, Mary Antoun, Anne McCallister, Neville Akom, Terry Gough, Tyronne Wallis, Cecile Potier, Fr. Michael Willemssen, Sebastian Nowakowski, Maria Terezia Szabo, Mavis David, James Mendis, Oliver Mendis, Hector de Santos, Teariki Sword, Rui Manuel Campos, Ruby Reid, Danny Sugunasekera, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Grace Sprigg, Ronella Tyrell **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Giuseppina Materia, Barbara Anne Tobin, Sintia Nugraha, Milica Kosi, Kuntjoro Setyo, Raffaella Di Gennaro, Ronald Harris, Amato Ganino, Betty Scanlan, Monica Mary Sleeman, Robert Stellato, Mareka Dunlop, Jacinta Martyn, Cheryl Anthony, Peter Cano, Keerthi Navaratne, Frances Dascoli, Giuseppina Dascoli **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

Happy Mother's day

Let us pray

*Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift and joy of motherhood,
for Your grace to love and care for our families
amidst our daily struggles and competing priorities.*

*Please bless all mothers
and those who have taken upon themselves
the responsibility of motherhood.*

*Grant us strength, patience, wisdom
and may Your Holy Spirit constantly inspire and guide us
as we nurture our families.*

*Comfort those who mourn the loss of their mothers
and heal those who have been hurt by broken relationships.*

May Your peace and love surround them.

*Help families to honour and support their mothers,
showing them kindness, gratitude, and profound respect,
so our hearts may be filled with joy and our spirits be uplifted.*

*Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
please pray for us and our families.*

I make this prayer through Jesus Christ,

*Our Lord and Saviour
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.*

Amen

(from Archdiocese of Brisbane)